

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04576 272227 Z

62

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 CU-04 RSR-01 /088 W
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P R 272120 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2615

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4576

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EAID, AR

SUBJECT: AIFLD EDUCATION PROGRAMS SUSPENDED

1. SUMMARY. PLEASE ADVISE AIFLD/ W THAT MISSION AND AIFLD/ A HAVE CONCURRED IN DECISION TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND AIFLD EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN ARGENTINA AS OF JUNE 26. DECISION MADE PURSUANT TO DEVELOPMENTS DURING PAST WEEK WHICH CLEARLY INDICATE RADICAL ELEMENTS

OF PERONIS LEFT AND PERONIST YOUTH SECTORS ARE SEEKING TO EXPLOIT AIFLD PRESENCE FOR PURPOSE OF DISCREDITING MODERATE PERONIST LABOR LEADERSHIP. DUE DEVELOPMENTS MISSION NOW REVIEWING POSSIBILITY

OF EARLIER PHASE- OUT OF BILATERAL PROGRAM AND REVISION OF CURRENT AIFLD TASK ORDER TO ALLOW FOR GRADUAL EVOLVEMENT OF LOW- KEY REGIONAL

ACTIVITIES ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED IN MISSION PROGRAM SUBMISSION.
END SUMMARY

2. CPD JOSE SUEIRO HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION FROM AIFLD/ W TO COME TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATION. MISSION CONCURS IN SUEIRO REQUEST AND ASKS DEPARTMENT TO CONTACT AIFLD/ W AND ADVISE EMBASSY OF DECISION ASAP. AIFLD/ W SHOULD BE CAUTIONED AGAINST USE OF TELEPHONE AND TELEX IN DEALING WITH SITUATION.

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 04576 272227 Z

3. ON JUNE 22 IN TUCUMAN THE NATIONAL SUGAR WORKERS FEDERATION OF THE COMBATIVE PERONIST UNION SECTOR SEIZED REGIONAL CGT HEADQUARTERS AND THREATENED TO BURN AIFLD DONATED FURNITURE AT LABOR SCHOOL ESTABLISHED UNDER AIFLD AUSPICES. IN BUENOS AIRES PERONIST YOUTH DISRUPTED AIFLD SPONSORED SEMINAR FORCING GARMENT WORKER UNION LEADERS TO CANCEL SEMINAR. INTERNAL PERONIST UNION DISPUTES ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY WHERE AIFLD SUPPORTED LABOR SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN FUNCTIONING ALSO CONSIDERED IN DECISION TO SUSPEND AIFLD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

4. IT IS NOW APPARENT THAT THE RADICAL PERONIST LEFT, ESPECIALLY THE PERONIST YOUTH SECTOR INCLUDING MONTONEROS, FAR AND NEW YOURN PERONIST WORKS (JTP) HAVE TARGETED MODERATE PERONIST LABOR LEADERS AND THEIR UNIONS FOR INFILTRATION AND WHEN POSSIBLE SEIZURE OF UNION FACILITIES. IT IS ALSO APPARENT THAT UNION LEADERS HAVE ORGANIZED YOUN PERONIS SINDICALISTS (JSP) FOR PURPOSE OF COMBATTING THRUST FROM RADICALS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, BOTH JTP AND JSP WERE INVOLVED IN JUNE 20 SHOOT OUT AT EZEIZA AIRPORT.

5. TWO IMPORTANT MODERATE LEADERS, HECTOR LOPEZ OF CIVIL SERVANTS UNION AND JUAN ARCE OF THE SEAMENS UNION, HAVE BOTH RESIGNED THEIR POSTS. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LABOR SOURCES THEIR RESIGNATIONS RESULTED FROM INTERNAL PERONIST POWER STRUGGLES WHICH ARE ALSO TAKING PLACE IN OTHER UNIONS. LOPEZ AND ARCE ARE EX- LEADER GRANTEES. ARCE JUST RECENTLY RETURNED FROM US. THE MURDER OF AUTO UNION CHIEF DIRK KLOOSTERMAN LAST MONTH IS ALSO BEING ATTRIBUTED TO PERONIST EXTREMIST.

6. MODERATES EXPRESS CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITY TO CONTROL SITUATION AND PREDICT IT WILL BE NORMALIZED AS PERONIST GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND DIRECTION BECOME MORE CLOSELY DEFINED. MEANWHILE THEY ARE BEING CIRCUMSPECT IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH AIFLD AS WELL AS WITH THE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE. IN LIGHT OF SENSITIVE NATURE OF SITUATION, MISSION CONCURS WITH AIFLD IN TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PROGRAMS AND HAS ADVISED SUEIRO TO LIMIT AIFLD ACTIVITIES TO IN-HOUSE FUNCTIONS. SEPARATE MESSAGE DEALING WITH PROPOSED AIFLD REGIONAL PROGRAM WHICH WILL REFLECT CHANGING SITUATION NOW BEING PREPARED.

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